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**\$1.00 US**  
**\$1.25 CAN**

**70**  
**SEPT**  
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AUTHORITY

**THE**  
**MUIR**  
**ISLAND**  
Epilogue

# **X** **FACTOR**



**50**  
YEARS



OF  
CAPTAIN AMERICA

1941 - 1991

## **DAY OF** **DELISSION!**

MIGNOLA



TRIALS AND  
A TALE OF  
TRANSITIONS  
BROUGHT TO  
YOU BY...

PETER  
DAVID  
NEW WRITER

KIRK  
JARVINEN  
GUEST PENCILER

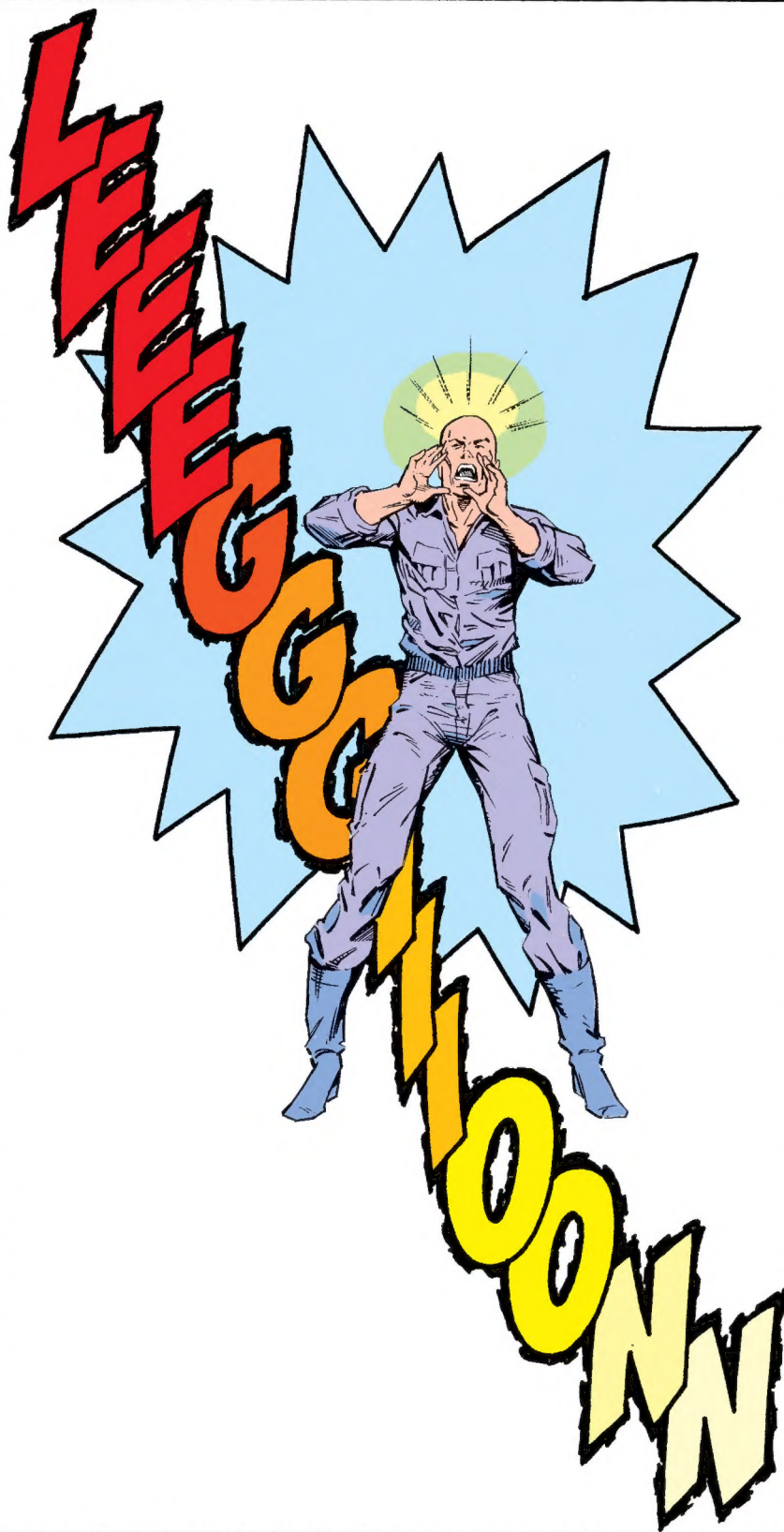
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RUBINSTEIN  
GUEST INKER

MICHAEL  
HEISLER  
LETTERER

GLYNIS/  
OLIVER/  
STEVE  
BUCCELLATO  
COLORISTS

BOB  
HARRAS  
EDITOR

TOM  
DEFALCO  
EDITOR  
IN CHIEF



X-FACTOR® Vol. 1, No. 70, September,  
1991. (ISSN #0894-6604) Published by  
MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, Presi-  
dent, Stan Lee, Publisher Michael Hobson,  
Group Vice President, Publishing OFFICE  
OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE  
SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND  
CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK,  
NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OF-  
FICES. Published monthly. Copyright ©  
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DRESS CHANGES TO X-FACTOR, c/o  
MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387  
PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y.  
10016. Printed in the U.S.A.



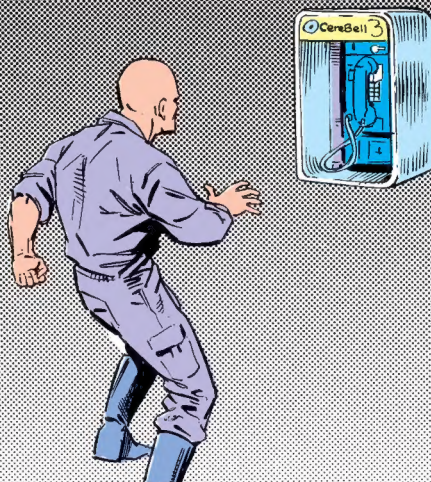
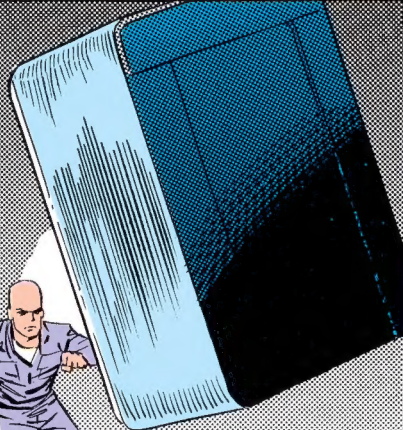
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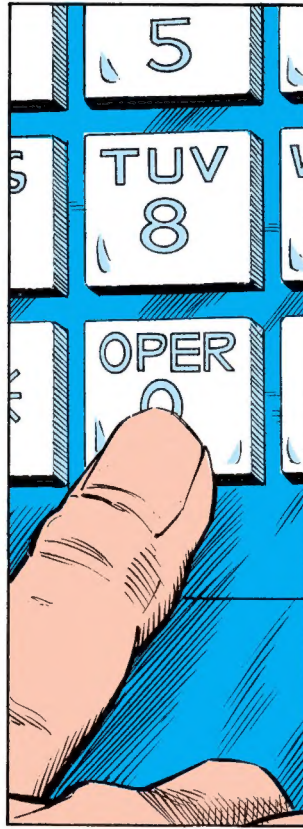
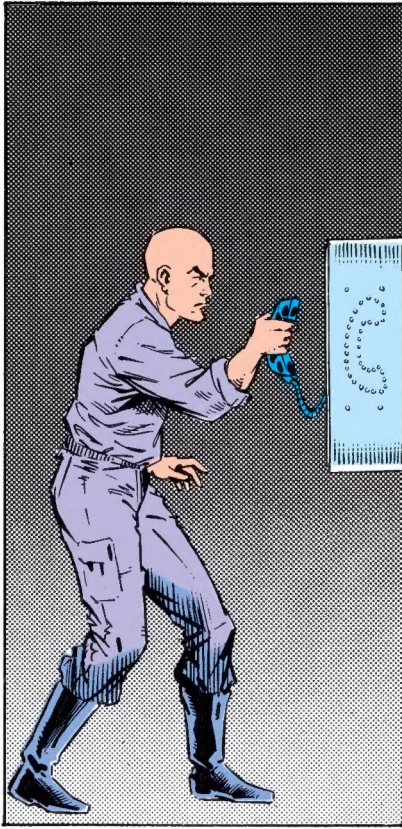
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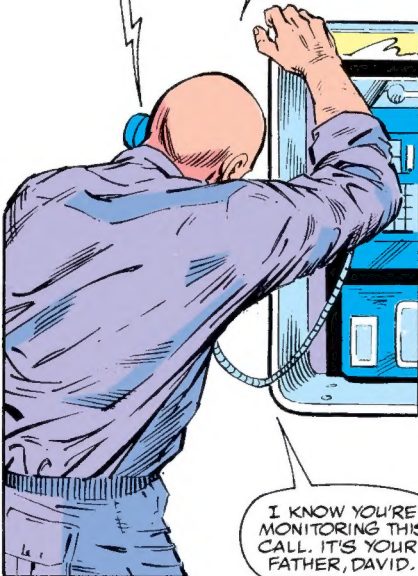
HELLO, YOU'VE  
REACHED THE BRAIN  
OF DAVID HALLER.

THERE'S NO  
ONE HERE TO  
TAKE YOUR CALL  
RIGHT NOW.



PLEASE LEAVE  
A MESSAGE AND  
WE'LL GET BACK  
TO YOU.  
**BEEP**

DAVID,  
DAVID, LISTEN  
TO ME. I KNOW  
YOU'RE THERE.

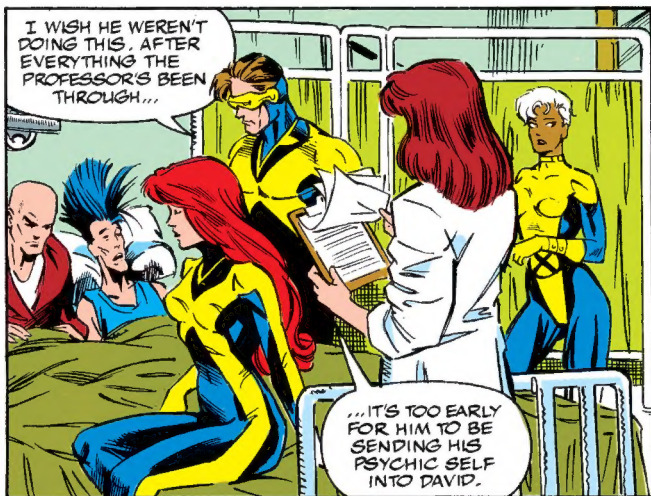


I KNOW YOU'RE  
MONITORING THIS  
CALL. IT'S YOUR  
FATHER, DAVID.

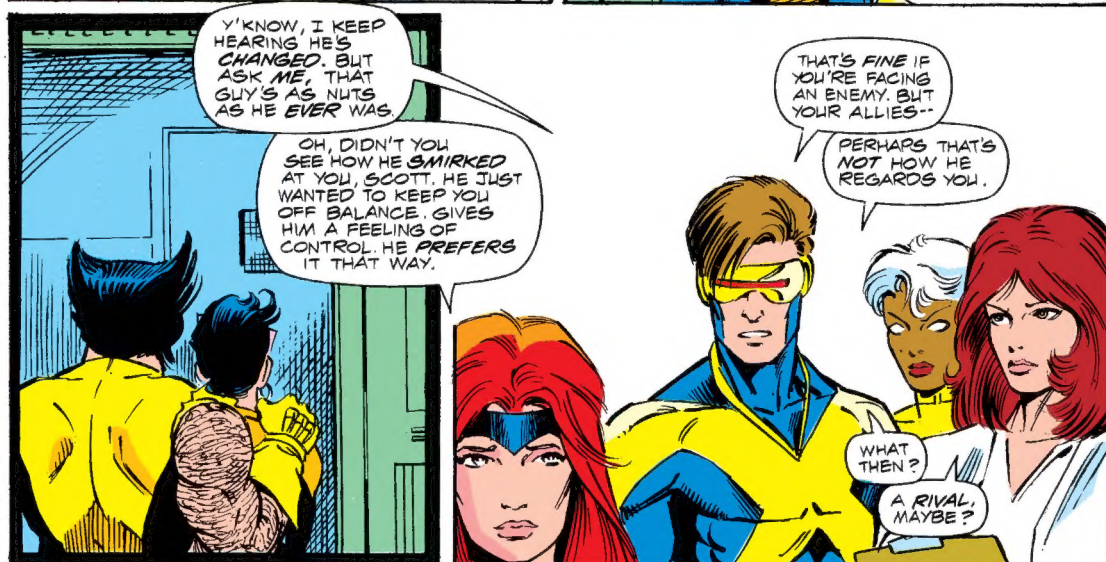


DAVID, PLEASE!  
LISTEN TO ME!  
COME BACK TO US!

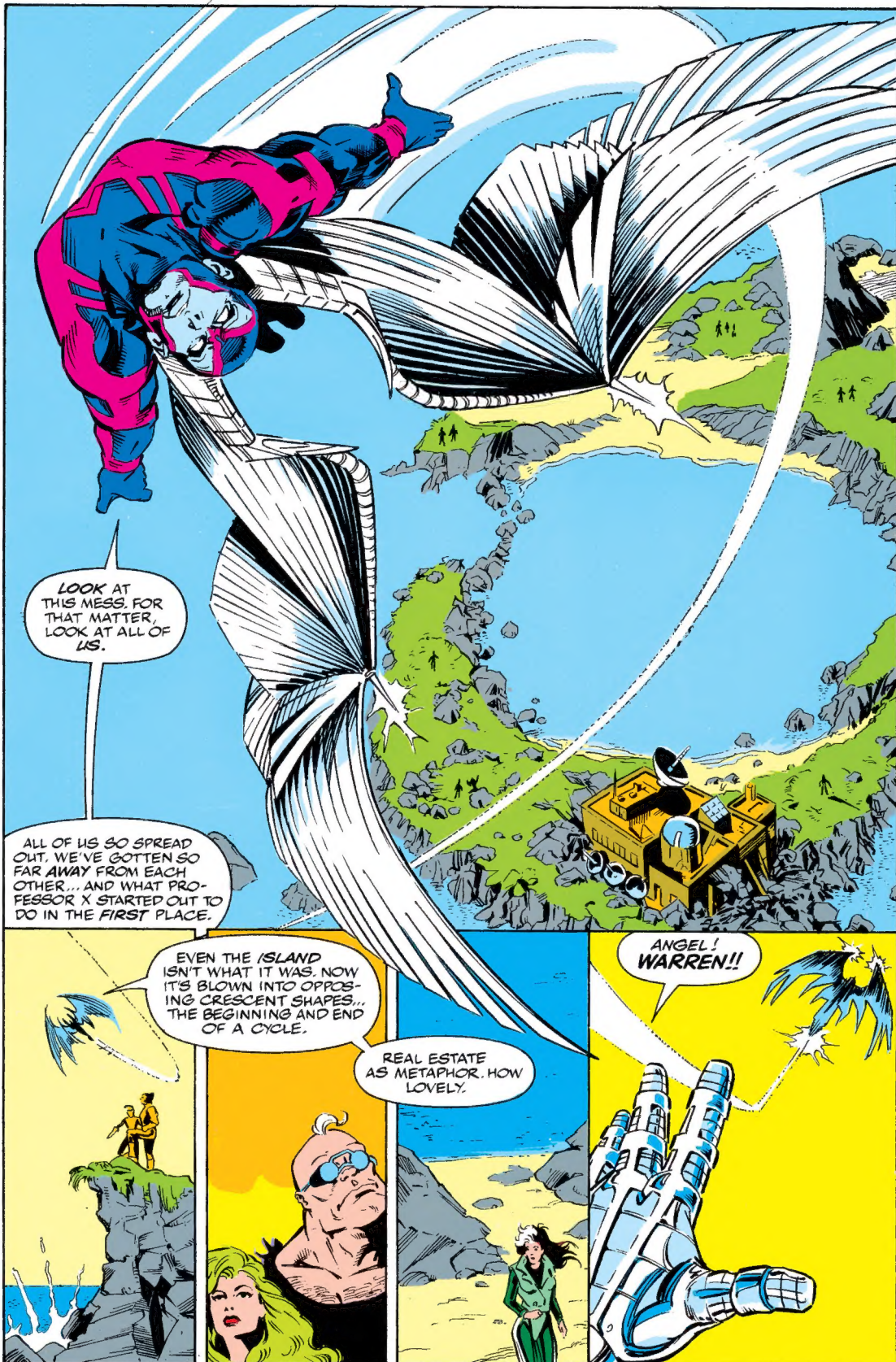












LOOK AT THIS MESS. FOR THAT MATTER, LOOK AT ALL OF US.

ALL OF US SO SPREAD OUT. WE'VE GOTTEN SO FAR AWAY FROM EACH OTHER... AND WHAT PROFESSOR X STARTED OUT TO DO IN THE FIRST PLACE.

EVEN THE ISLAND ISN'T WHAT IT WAS. NOW IT'S BLOWN INTO OPPOSING CRESCENT SHAPES... THE BEGINNING AND END OF A CYCLE.

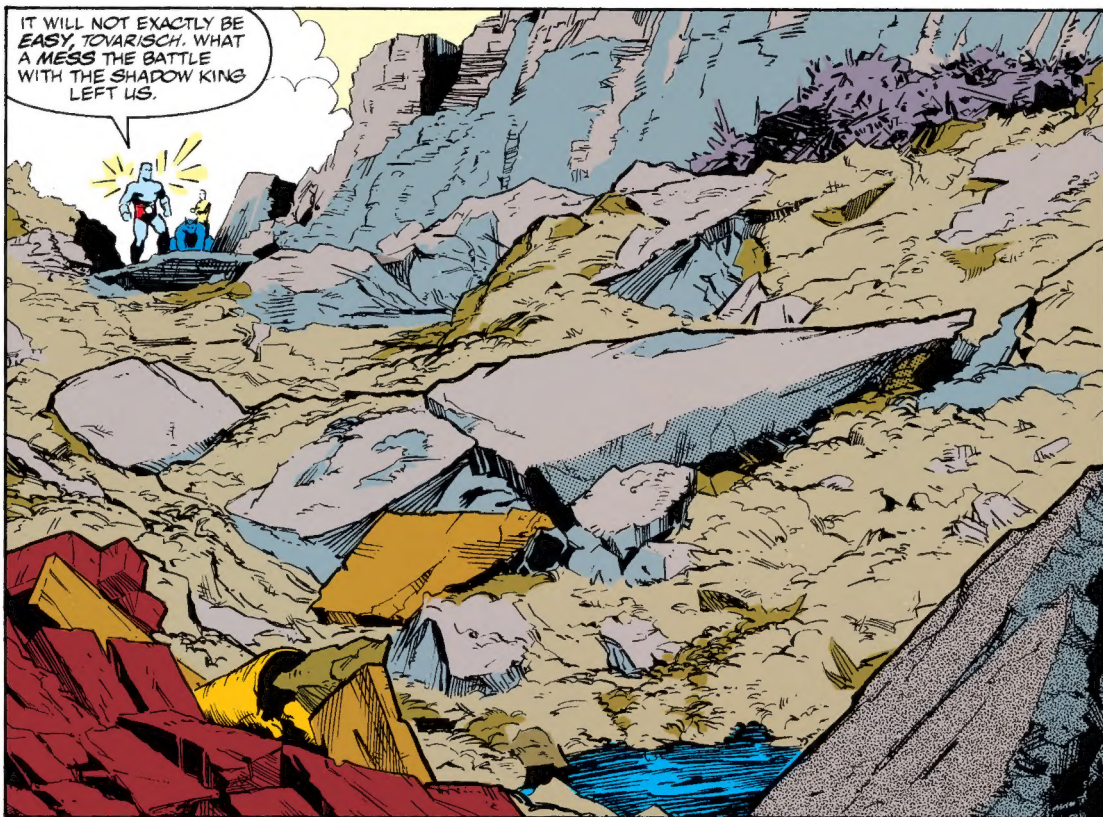
REAL ESTATE AS METAPHOR. HOW LOVELY.

ANGEL! WARREN!!

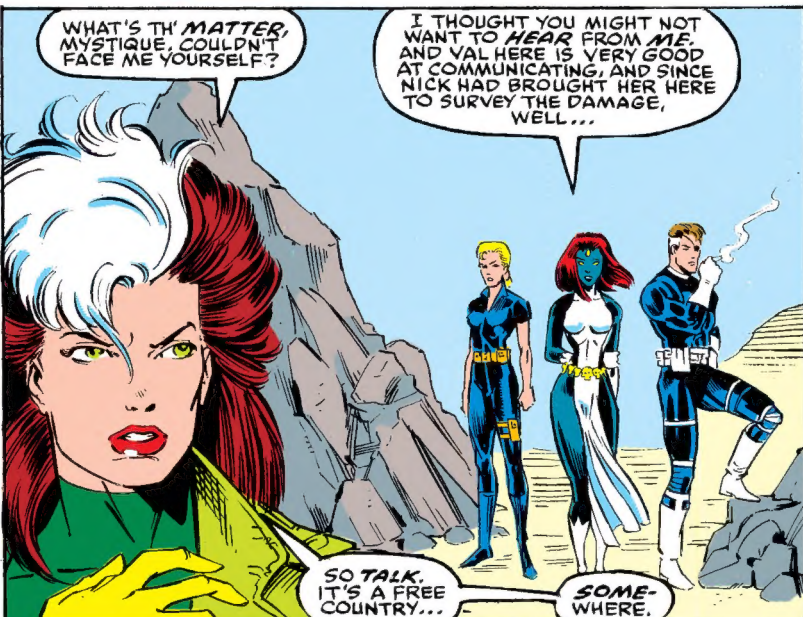
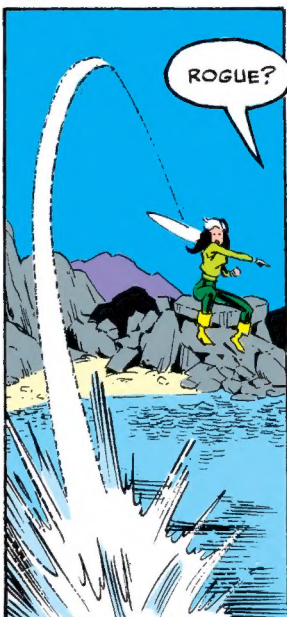
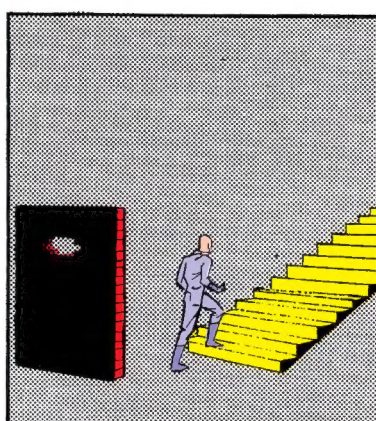
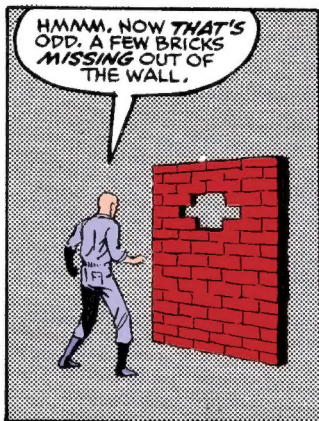














IT HAPPENED A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO, WHEN I WAS UNDER THE SHADOW KING'S CONTROL. I HAD BEEN ORDERED TO KILL MYSTIQUE...

AND I WAS READY TO DO IT, BUT I CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT THE SHADOW KING'S POWER WAS STRETCHED FAIRLY THIN AT THE TIME, BECAUSE I WAS FIGHTING IT AND THE GUN STARTED TO TREMBLE.

I KNEW I WAS GOING TO BE COMPELLED TO PULL THE TRIGGER, DESPITE EVERYTHING I WANTED TO DO. AND IF I MISSED, I'D JUST CONTINUE TO KEEP SHOOTING UNTIL MY MISSION WAS ACCOMPLISHED.

AND SUDDENLY, DESPERATELY, I REVERSED THE GUN, PUT IT TO MY OWN HEAD, AND FIRED. BUT THE BARREL JERKED AND I CREASED MY SKULL.

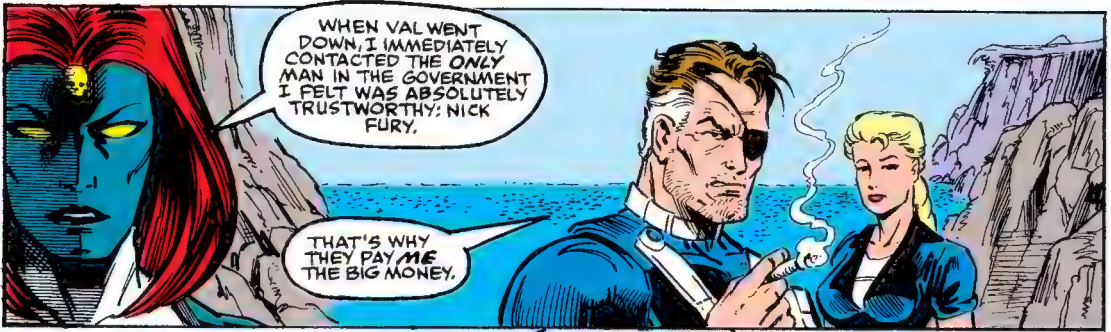
THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS IN AN AMBULANCE, LOOKING UP AT NICK FURY'S MUG.

I LOVE YA TOO KID.

YOU WERE GOING TO KILL YOURSELF RATHER THAN LET YOURSELF BE FORCED TO KILL SOMEONE ELSE?

YEAH, WELL... THAT'S WHY THEY PAY ME THE BIG MONEY.





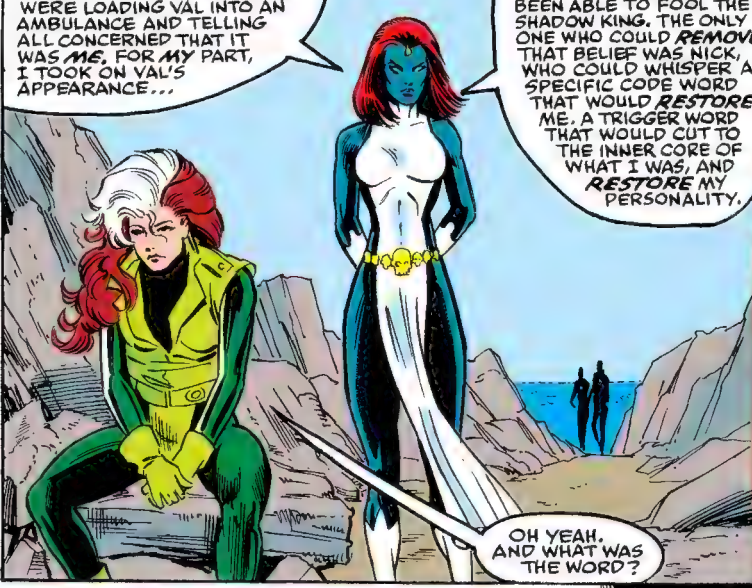
WHEN VAL WENT DOWN, I IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED THE ONLY MAN IN THE GOVERNMENT I FELT WAS ABSOLUTELY TRUSTWORTHY: NICK FURY.

THAT'S WHY THEY PAY ME THE BIG MONEY.

FURY SET THINGS UP IMMEDIATELY. BY THE TIME JACOB REISZ--WHOM I SUSPECTED WAS CONNECTED WITH THE SHADOW KING--SHOWED UP, FURY'S PEOPLE WERE LOADING VAL INTO AN AMBULANCE AND TELLING ALL CONCERNED THAT IT WAS ME. FOR MY PART, I TOOK ON VAL'S APPEARANCE...

ALONG WITH THE HELP OF A SHIELD HYPNOTIST WHO GAVE ME THE CONSCIOUS BELIEF THAT I WAS VAL, ELSE WE'D NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FOOL THE SHADOW KING. THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD REMOVE THAT BELIEF WAS NICK, WHO COULD WHISPER A SPECIFIC CODE WORD THAT WOULD RESTORE ME. A TRIGGER WORD THAT WOULD CUT TO THE INNER CORE OF WHAT I WAS, AND RESTORE MY PERSONALITY.

"ROGUE."



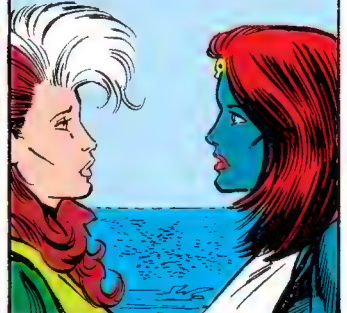
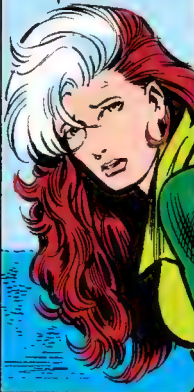
OH YEAH. AND WHAT WAS THE WORD?



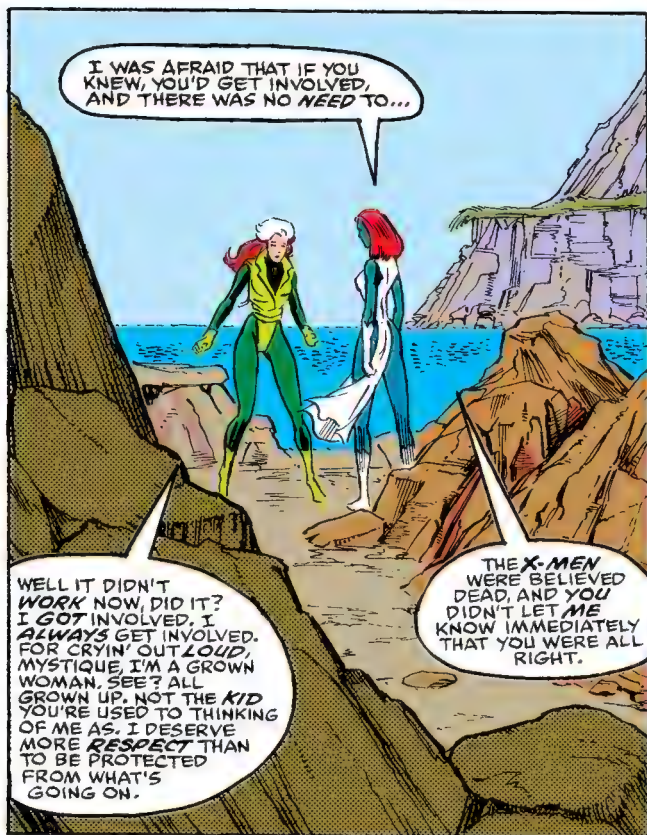
YOU GOT ANY IDEA WHAT IT DID TO ME? HEARIN' ON THE NEWS REPORT THAT YOU WERE DEAD. WATCHING THEM LOAD YOUR BODY ON THE MEATWAGON.

IT WASN'T ME.

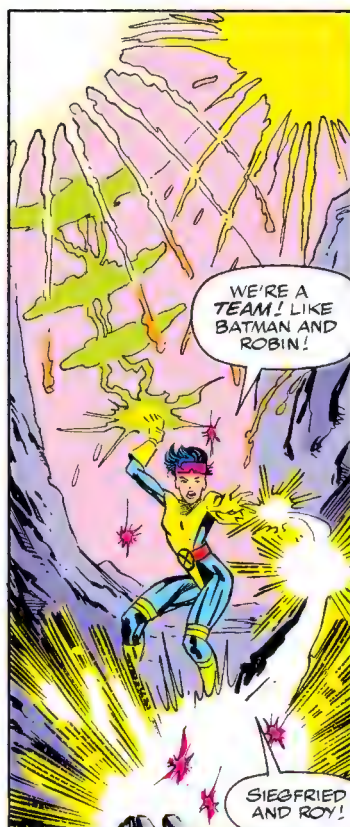
IT COULDA BEEN! YOU COULDA TOLD ME! FOUND A WAY. HAD FURY TELL ME. DROP ME A POST-CARD. SOME-THING.



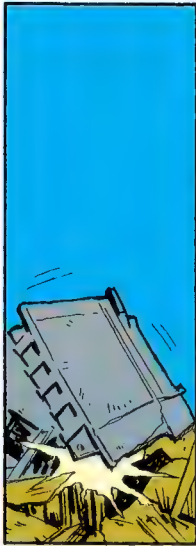
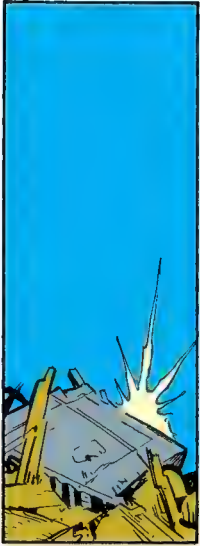






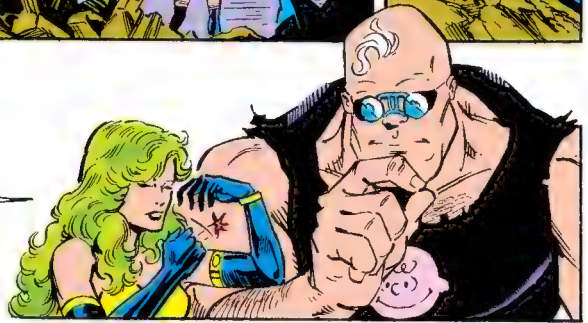






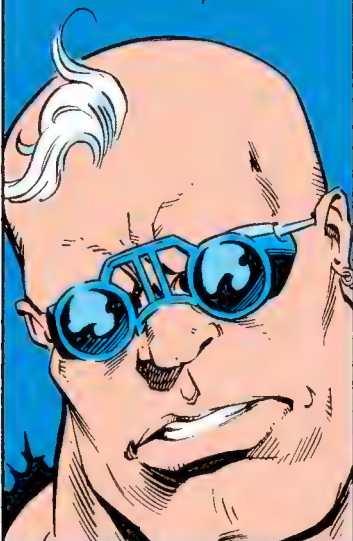
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I WAS THE WAY I WAS, I'M NOT EVEN SURE HOW THAT WAS ANYMORE.

EVERYTHING FEELS STIFF. FOR SO LONG, MY MIND'S BEEN UNDER SOMEONE ELSE'S CONTROL. I FEEL LIKE MY BRAIN'S AN UNUSED MUSCLE. LIKE ALL MY MUSCLES ARE UNUSED.

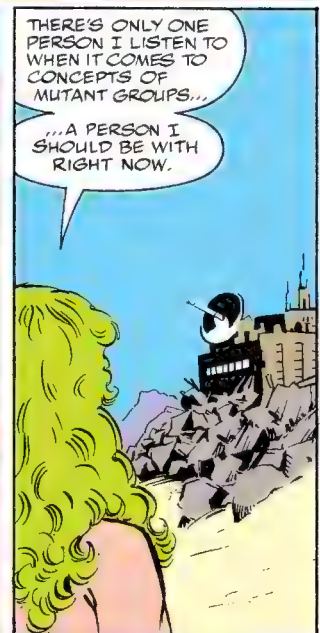
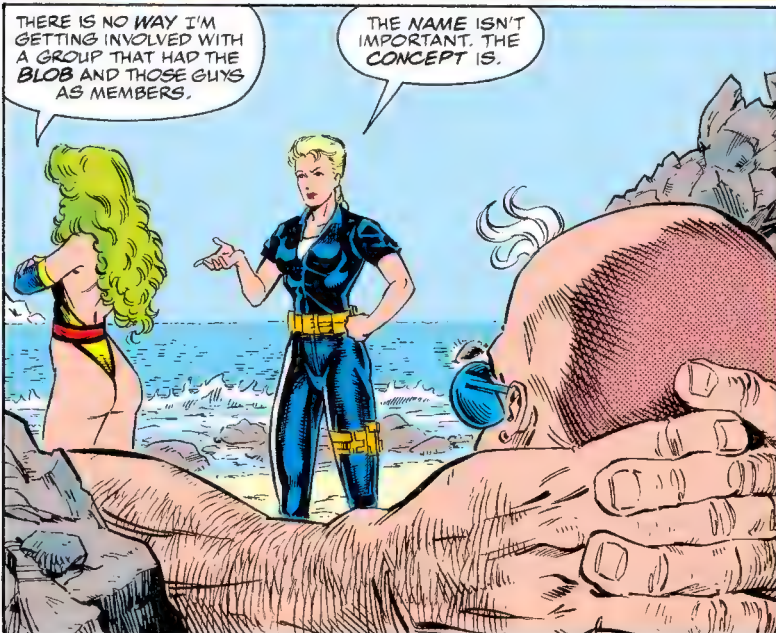
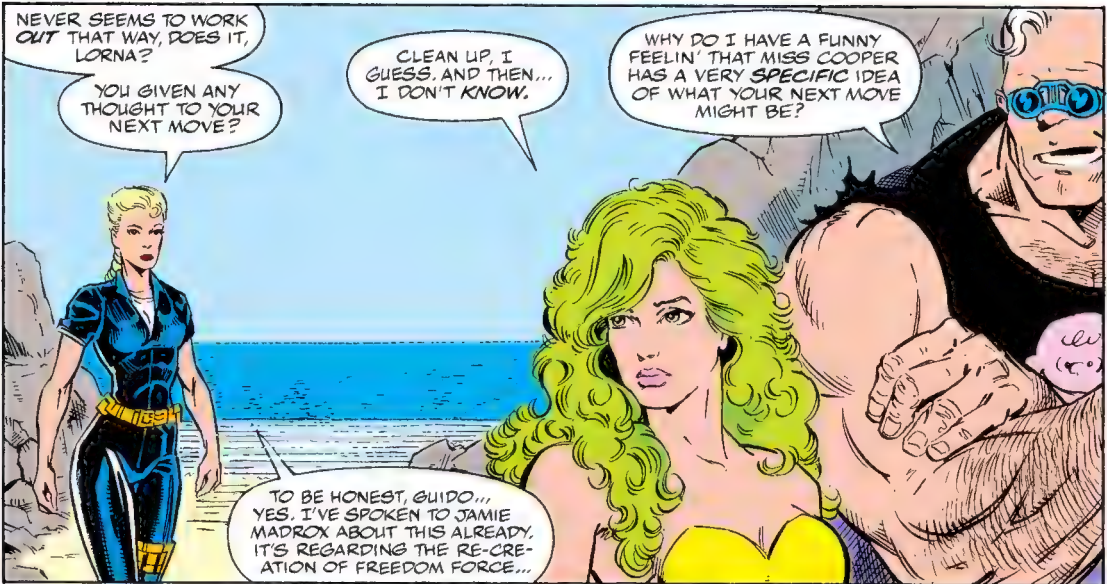
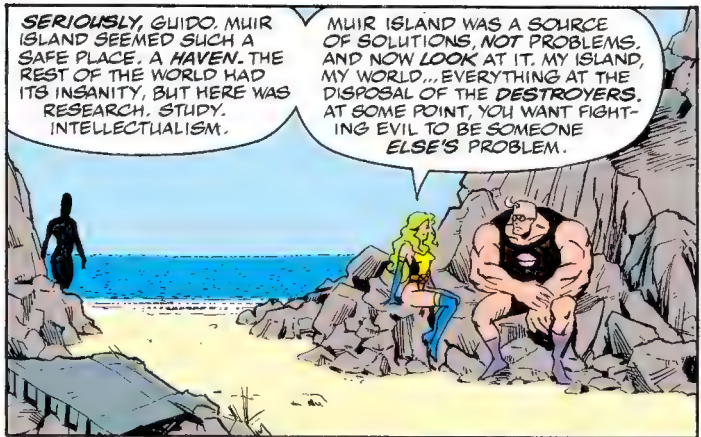
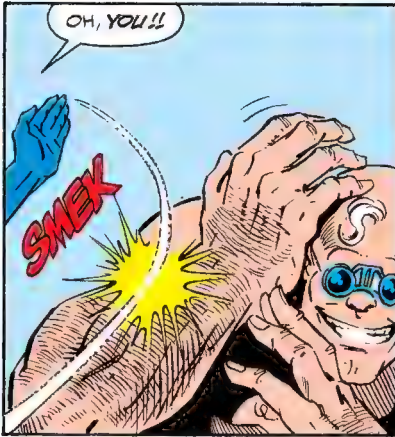


STIFF, HUH? TELL YA WHAT... PUT YOUR ARMS STRAIGHT UP OVER YOUR HEAD.

THAT'S IT. NOW TAKE A REAL DEEP BREATH, WHILE THRUSTING YOUR HIPS BACK.





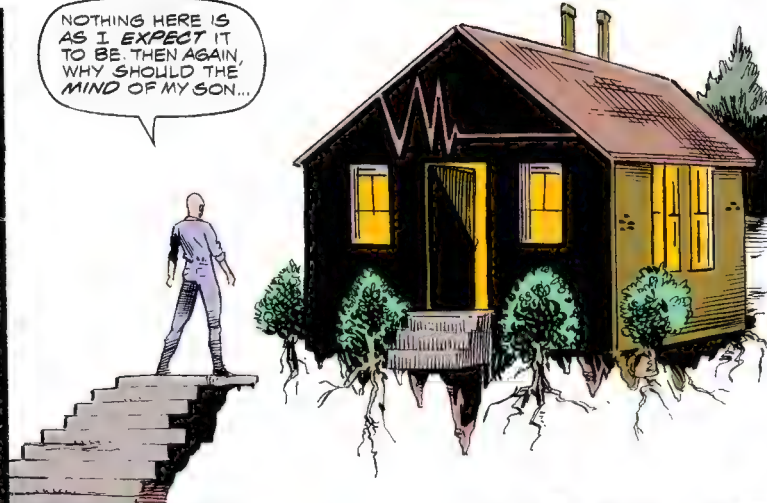






MADNESS.  
ALL  
MADNESS.

NOTHING HERE IS  
AS I EXPECT IT  
TO BE. THEN AGAIN,  
WHY SHOULD THE  
MIND OF MY SON...



... BE ANY MORE  
RATIONAL THAN  
THE REAL  
WORLD OF MY  
SON.



I COME BACK  
FROM MY TIME  
IN SPACE, AND  
WHAT DO I  
FIND?



JEAN MIRACULOUSLY  
BACK FROM THE DEAD.  
WARREN MUTATED INTO  
SOMETHING BARELY  
RECOGNIZABLE. SCOTT  
IN MOURNING FOR A  
SON I DIDN'T KNOW  
HE HAD, AND WIFE  
THAT HE APPARENTLY  
NEVER DID.

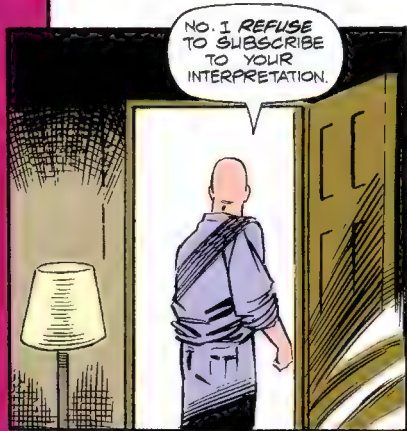


IF ONLY ONE OF  
THESE LIT LAMPS  
COULD PROVIDE A  
FRACTION OF  
THE ILLUMINATION  
THAT I NEED.





I'M GLAD YOU SEE THE **HUMOR** PROFESSOR, BECAUSE I'M HERE TO TELL YOU... YOUR SEARCH FOR DAVID IS **HOPELESS**.





HE DOESN'T NEED YOU BECAUSE HE'S NOT HERE. BUT WE DO NEED YOU.

THE CENTER CANNOT HOLD WITHOUT YOU PROVIDING THE VISION...

EVERYTHING IS BLURRED.

BUT WHY ME? WHY ALWAYS ME?

-- BECAUSE --

NEVER MIND, BOBBY. IT WAS RHETORICAL.

PROFESSOR, IF YOU WANT TO STOP YOUR FALL--

YOU'RE ABOUT TO INSTRUCT ME, MY DEAR, ON THE TECHNIQUES OF ASTRAL PHYSICS? ME?

YOU FORGET YOURSELF.

JUST BEING CONCERNED, PROFESSOR.

SO NOTED.

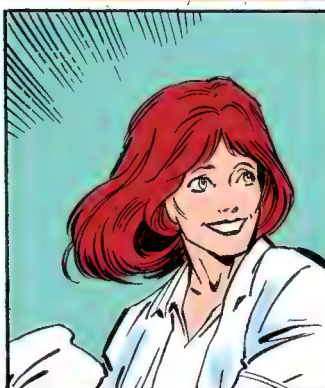
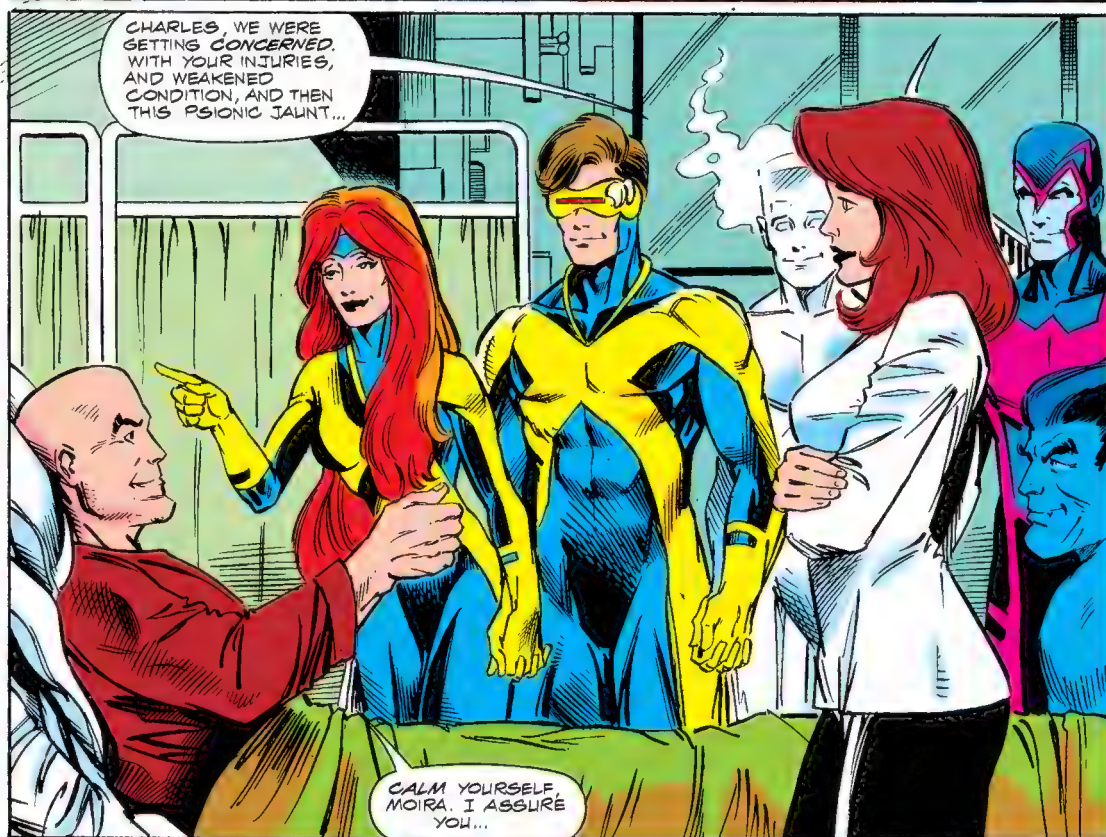
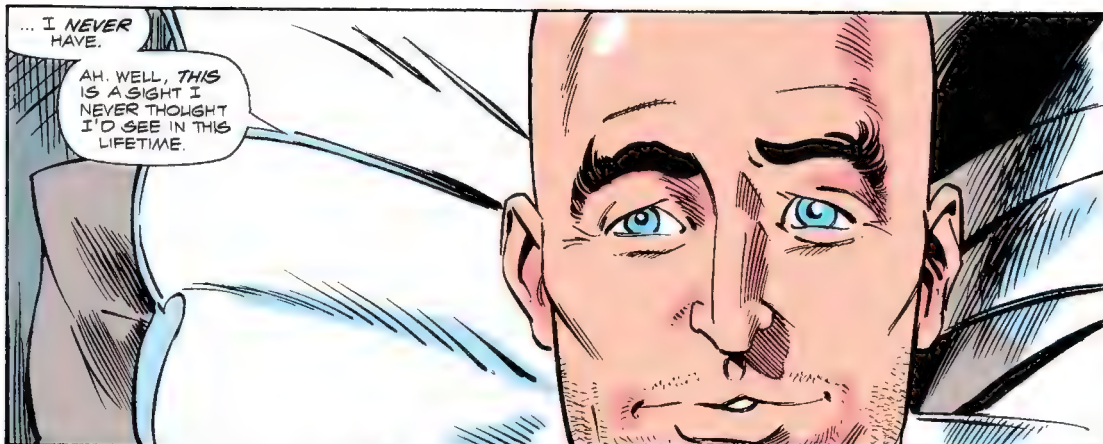
PROFESSOR ... YOU HAVE TO KNOW. YOU WERE SO DETERMINED TO TRY AND HELP DAVID IMMEDIATELY, YOU DIDN'T GIVE US TIME TO TELL YOU THE X-RAYS SHOW...

... YOU'LL NEVER WALK AGAIN.

"NEVER," SCOTT? AND JEAN LOST HER LIFE, NEVER TO RETURN, AND WARREN LOST HIS WINGS, NEVER TO FLY AGAIN.

I DON'T BELIEVE IN NEVER, SCOTT. AND FURTHER-- MORE ...







## STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes!

It takes place the week of July Fourth! It's in San Diego! It's one of the biggest Comic Book Conventions of all! And it's not even paying us for this priceless Soapbox plug! So why am I doing it? Here's why...

Marvel believes in Comic Book Cons! Marvel supports Comic Book Cons! Marvel loves Comic Book Cons!

Just think! A place where all you fans can get together with other Marvel maniacs (not to mention Brand Echh bizzaros) and have a ball meeting your favorite artists, writers and editors! A


place where you can bid on all sorts of original artwork, attend discussion groups with the pros, snare countless autographs, snap candid photos of the celebs, and generally wallow in a welter of comic book lore!

Let's face it, a good Comic Book Con is super hero heaven—and if this hype doesn't get me a free pass to the next one, I'll return my latest no-prize for a full refund! Come to think of it, maybe I'll devote my next soapbox to expensive sports cars—hey, I'm not so dumb!

But seriously (which is a word I find hard to take seriously), if you've never attended a Comic Book Con you should make a note not to miss the next one that comes

to your town. There are now so many of 'em that they seem to be proliferating like rabbits, so no matter where you live there's a good chance of finding one in your area sooner or later. And, since I attend so many Cons during the year, there's always the possibility of us running into each other—but don't let that discourage you. You can always pretend you don't know me!

So, till Jim Lee admits he's my long-lost grandfather, see ya at the Con! Excelsior!



July is a mondo-hot month—but you don't need us to tell you that. Just stick your head out the window. Preferably an open one. Now, some may like it hot—Marilyn Monroe, for one, singer Robert Palmer, for another. But here at Marvel, we're trying to forget about the heat. After all, too much heat can make you perspire on your new mint Marvel comics, thus decreasing their value. And we don't want that. Instead of telling you what you already know—that we're telling 'em the mercury into the red—we'd rather talk about things that are cool.

After all, a good comic should be cool and refreshing—like a gentle breeze on a warm summer's day...like a guitar riff you can't get out of your head...or like an ice cube dropped down your shirt. At least, that's the idea. We figured what better way to help you cool off than to clue you in on what we, the movers and shakers at the coolest comics company in the U.S., consider the ultimate in cool. (If the items mentioned here do not seem cool to you, you may want to redefine your abstract values.)

**COOLEST ACTIVITY FOR MARRIED COUPLES:** Having babies. This recreational activity seems quite popular this year, as evidenced by ultra-inker Randy Emberlin and his lovely wife, Judy, who have just had a baby boy, and PUNISHER mega-pencil Hugh Haynes and his lovely wife, Judith, who recently celebrated the arrival of a baby girl.

**COOLEST NAME FOR BABY BOYS:** Alex.

**COOLEST NAME FOR BABY GIRLS:** Olivia.

**COOLEST BOOK:** X-MEN—super-scribe Chris Claremont's second novel, *Grounded*, will be out next month from Ace Books. Chris describes *Grounded* as "hi-tech sf," noting that it's a sequel to his first novel, *First Flight*. A third book in the series is planned. However, with Chris busy scripting two, count 'em, two X-MEN books every month, there's no telling when the third book in the series will be out.

**COOLEST FOOD:** Cherry Slurpees.

**COOLEST SPORT:** Wallyball. (It's like volleyball, only with no rules.)

**COOLEST COMIC:** Gilbert Gottfried. Hal Fooled you! You thought we were talking about comic books, when actually we were talking about stand-up comics! The ultra-hilarious Gilbert, known for his hosting of the USA Cable Network's *Up All Night*, and movie roles including *Problem Child* and *Beverly Hills Cop 2*, is a big Marvel fan. He recently stopped by the Marvel offices along with his buddy, fellow stand-up comic (and ALPHA FLIGHT's new writer) Scott Lobdell. Gilbert and Scott are working on a story for our Dastardly Competition. Something about the adventures of a boy who could fly, or some such. Comics writing comics...what will they think of next?



## JULY COOLOMETER



- INFINITY GAUNTLET
- PENN & TELLER
- BARE KNEES
- THE ROCKETEER
- THAI FOOD
- SUPERMODEL CLAUDIA SCHIFFER
- THE SIMPSONS
- MICHAEL JORDAN
- GEEK CHIC
- THE INCREDIBLE HULK
- ROLLERBLADES
- ANNE RICE'S THE WITCHING HOUR
- SOFTBALL
- QUASAR
- GEOGRAPHIC UNDESIRABILITY
- THE FLASH TV SHOW
- HANNIBAL LECTER
- TEEN-AGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES
- TWIN PEAKS
- SUSHI
- BO JACKSON
- NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK
- MCLEAN BURGER
- STEVEN SEAGAL
- BELL BOTTOMS
- VOGUE
- VANILLA ICE
- PONYTAILS ON MEN
- REGIS & KATHY LEE

**COOLEST ISSUE OF MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE:** Issue #104, which, by a strange coincidence, is on sale this month. The issue features a cover by ultra-superstar artist Jim Lee, as well as an interview with The-One-Who-Is-Not-Stan's-Son. The cover story this issue? Why, none other than the all-new, all different X-MEN #1, which explodes on the world like a supernova next month, and is sure to be the best-selling comic since the dawn of the Paleolithic Era. Now, any other comic company would give you the Jim Lee interview and stop there. But not us! MARVEL AGE #104 also contains the reprint of the first Marvel mutant story ever published. It's called "The Man Who Could Fly," and it's by a couple of gents named Stan (I am not Jim's Dad) Lee and Steve (I Am Not Related In Any Way To Either Stan Or Jim Lee) Ditko. The story originally appeared in...AMAZING FANTASY #141 (As all true Marveloids know, that's the issue BEFORE the introduction of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN! Stan and Steve were really on a hot streak there—oops, we promised not to mention heat.)

**COOLEST SUMMER MOVIES:** *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*, and *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure 2*. By one of those strange, quirky twists of fate, the kind you usually associate with cheap romance novels, we're doing comic adaptations of both those mega-blockbuster-movies, and they're both on sale this month! What are the odds of that happening—we mention something on the Bullpen Page, and it happens to be on sale that same month. Coincidence...or evidence of the supernatural? We can't say for sure, but there are a few oddsmakers in Vegas who are placing bets against that kind of thing ever occurring again.

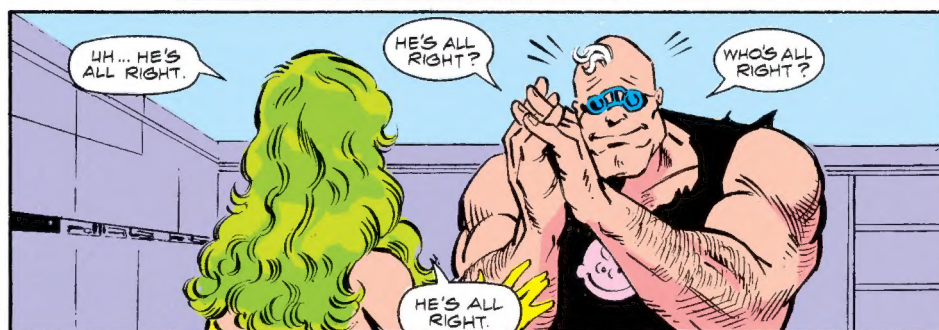
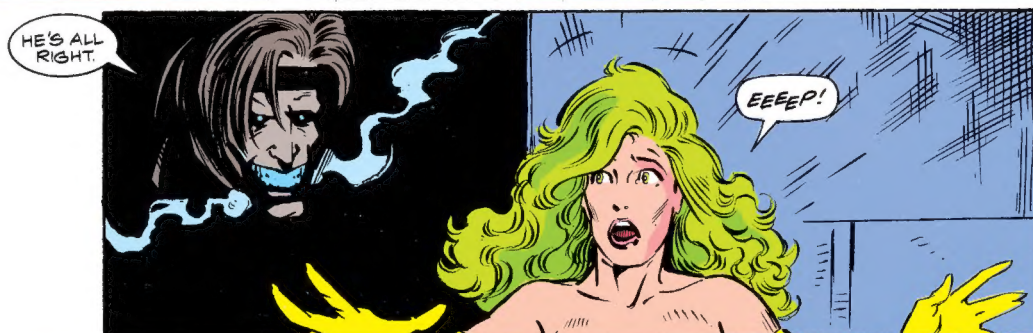
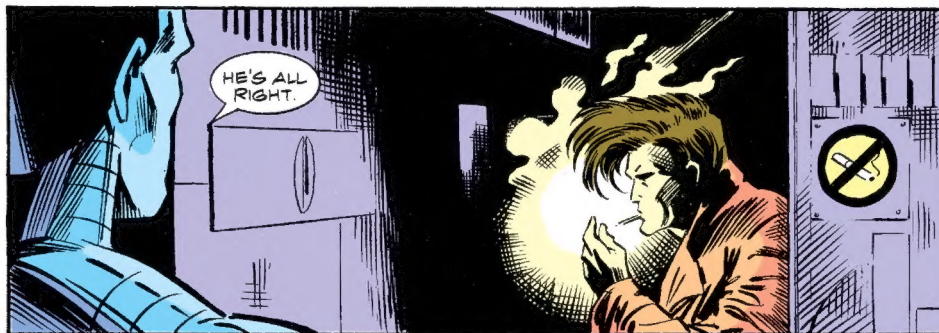
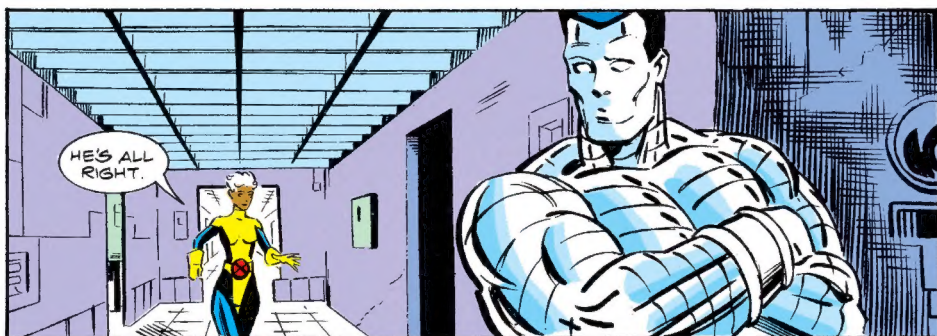
**COOLEST THING TO PUT ON YOUR DOOR:** The Mary Jane Watson poster by Joe Jusko, which, by some other freak fit of happenstance, goes on sale this month. You've seen the MARVEL ILLUSTRATED SWIMSUIT ISSUE—but here's your chance to see it as it was meant to be seen. It's so big, it takes up an entire door! If Mary Jane were a real person, it would be as big as life! The poster features the vivacious, bikini-clad MJ, relaxing beneath the comforting wash of a waterfall.

What could be cooler than that?

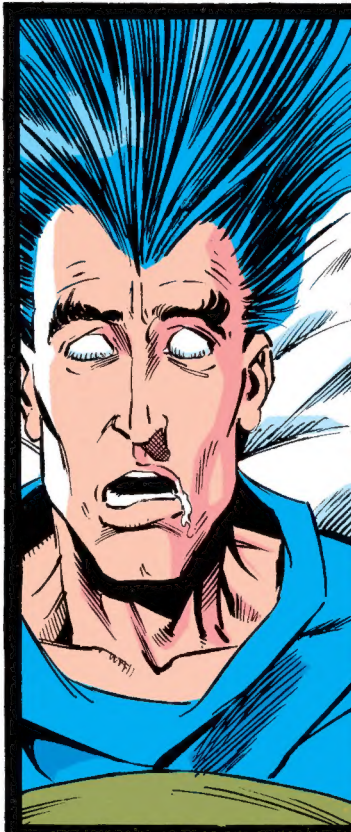
**COOLEST CONVENTION EVENT:** *Mondo Marvel*, our newest infotainment extravaganza which we've taken on the road to the major comics conventions, is a live talk show hosted by the ultrapopular Fabian Nicieza. It features music, famous comic writers reading from their works, audience participational contests, commercial skits for real Marvel comics, and other undignified activities. Catch it if you can!

**COOLEST SIGN-OFF:** That's it for another month, and we're outta here.













YOU WERE **CORRECT**. THE CENTER CANNOT HOLD, AND SO A **NEW CENTER** MUST BE ESTABLISHED. MY ONLY QUESTION NOW IS...

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH **FOURTEEN X-MEN?**

EH, **BAG 'EM.**





# X-CHANGES

BOB HARRAS, editor — SUZANNE GATTHEY, assistant editor

1% MARVEL COMICS GROUP • 367 Park Avenue South • New York, New York • 10014  
Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear X-Factor Folk,

In response, mostly, to #65:

Beautiful, absolutely beautiful work all around. I discovered comics last summer, got swiftly hooked on and collected all of X-FACTOR, and am now exploring other mutant titles. Since I hear that the current X-Factor cast is switching to other titles this summer, I had thought to wait until things settled down before commenting, but so delighted was I to hear Hank at his eloquent best that I had to write now. Scripting for all of the mutants, and their companions, just struck my ear so true this issue. Thank you.

And I do mean hear Hank. My friends and I have read all sixty-five X-FACTOR aloud together. Now, we're starting old X-Men.

Bobby's ice effects are a terrific improvement; very sharp. Cyclops' visor seems to add meaning to his expressions, rather than obscuring them. Angel's new wings (check out page 22!) are spectacular, and more believable for me. I dunno who to thank for it, Whilce or Art? (What do a penciler and inker do, anyway? Where's the separation of the work?) But I really like the great detail of the art, done with such precision that it remains clear and uncluttered. Superb control of your tools!

I'm overjoyed to see Charlotte Jones—it was she who drew me into X-FACTOR in the first place—and I'm interested in further developments between her and Archangel. I like the shadow on the bottom of page 13; that last panel-without-a-border really conveys three dimensions. One thing, though—Charlotte's looking awfully cosmetic all of a sudden. The middle of page 13, she looks like she just stepped off the pages of MADEMOISELLE, and I, for one, liked her better without the lip gloss and perky little nose.

Hank's spectacles, page 16, are the perfect intellectual contrast to his otherwise hirsute, beastly physiognomy. Please give him irises and pupils, though. I always found his humanity in his eyes as much as his words, and this "Orphan Annie" look just isn't working for me.

Please don't kill Ship. Send him off into space if you must, but please let him live. I like him.

Thanks for finally addressing the way a grown woman is still being called "Marvel Girl." (In the Apocalypse Manifesto). Twice in the letter column I've seen readers ask about that and get ignored. Maybe when she changes teams would be a swell time for her to change her name to "Marvel Woman," eh?

Once again, beautiful work. I expect I'll be following these characters for a long time.

Kory Lynn Merkel  
506 W. Vernon Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85003

P.S. I'm moving to Japan soon. Can I get Marvel comics in Japan? Do comics stands there sell them?

Kory, we agree that "Marvel Girl" sounds positively archaic—but then again "Marvel Woman" doesn't strike us as exactly 'nineties with-it' either. Suffice it to say, a new nomenclature for Ms. Grey

is being discussed.

We don't know if Marvel Comics are readily available on newsstands in Japan—so why don't you subscribe to all the titles you like and we'll mail 'em to you!

Dear X-FACTOR Crew,

I am 18 years old and have just begun to read X-FACTOR again. I am a fan of X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS and X-FACTOR now. When X-FACTOR started I subscribed to it, but when the artwork and story wasn't good for many issues, I dropped my subscription. I renewed my subscription at my comic shop when the artwork improved with the X-Tinction Agenda (which I enjoyed, since the story and artwork were great). When the X-Tinction Agenda was over, I was about to cancel my subscription again, until I read that Whilce Portacio was going to be the regular penciler. When I saw his artwork in THE PUNISHER, it was great; no way was I going to cancel my subscription this time. I really think that I can relate to the X-Factor characters, since I am an X-Men fan, but now I can also enjoy seeing them drawn by Whilce Portacio. THE PUNISHER is losing a great talent, but X-FACTOR is gaining a lot—plus another fan. I hope that Whilce Portacio remains on the creative team so I can enjoy his artwork.

Robert Poll  
(Address withheld by request)

Gez, Robert, last issue was Whilce's last on this title before moving on to UNCANNY X-MEN, but, wait—I Don't cancel yet. Check out the debut of Larry Stroman with issue #71. We think you might just renew early!

Dear Folks,

Congratulations. X-FACTOR has finally become the book it should've been from the start. The scripting is intelligent and well-paced (what I'd expect with Chris Claremont's support); the art is stylish and dynamic.

When X-FACTOR didn't hit the ground running, I read the book periodically to see if the new writer/artist teams could get some sizzle into it. Like I said, "finally"—this is the kind of book I'll stick around for.

I hope Peter David can maintain this momentum when he takes over. I hope it doesn't take this long for X-FORCE to hit the ground running. There are only too many mutant books around when they're not done right.

Kevin Patterson  
(Address withheld by request)

We have faith in Peter, Kev! The new X-FACTOR is gonna be different... but really, give it a try!

Dear X-FACTOR,

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!!! I have been waiting since #8 for an issue that treated Iceman as an adult, and it finally came. Iceman has long been one of my favorite characters. For as long as I can

remember, Iceman has been treated like "the kid" in X-Factor in particular, and comics in general. I mean, if you look back at issues of the X-MEN that Chris Claremont wrote, he brought all the original X-Men back at one time or another, but when he finally brought Iceman in for a guest-starring role, it was as a member of a team of second rate characters who formed a brief alliance. I can only think of two times where Bobby Drake was treated like something of an adult, before X-Factor, and they are HULK Annual #7, and CHAMPIONS #14. When X-Factor began, and Iceman left the New Defenders, I hoped that he would finally get the treatment he deserved and when he did get some of the spotlight, it was overshadowed by Angel's supposed "death." Then, a couple of weeks ago, I was reading an interview with Bob Harras, in Comics Scene #17, in which he calls Marvel Girl, Beast, and Cyclops the "key" members of X-Factor, and doesn't even mention Archangel or Iceman. I can understand Archangel not being included, because as far as I'm concerned, he was better off before the blue skin and razor blade wings. But I was astounded when Iceman was not mentioned as one of the members of X-Factor who will be rejoining the X-Men. Anyway, the point of this letter is to congratulate you on #63's spotlight on Iceman, and I hope that, if he remains with the new government controlled X-Factor that I have read is coming soon, he will at least be the team leader, and be given a chance to become a better character. Thank you again for X-FACTOR #63, and until every mutant is regressed to infancy by Nanny, make mine Marvel!!!

Bob Ulrich  
(Address withheld)

Bob apologizes for not including Iceman, as a key member, Bob—but he likes your name. Rest assured, young Mr. Drake and his amazing icicle powers will be packing up with the rest of the gang to join X-MEN and UNCANNY X-MEN.

Dear X-Changes,

I guess you could call me the "Silent Partner." Over the years (Oohh! Ten, count 'em) of being a True Believer, I continue to be surprised by certain aspects of the storylines in many titles. Some I agreed with... others I did not, but I always remained silent. Well, it's about time I said something! I picked up X-FACTOR #63 and was completely amazed. The art was fantastic. In this world of Jim Lee, Todd McFarlane, and Rob Liefeld, I strongly believe that Whilce Portacio will indeed make a huge name for himself. Not only was the art great but the story was remarkable, maybe his co-plotting helped the already great writing ability. This comic is bound to achieve another step into excellence. Now that I've got that off my chest, I've got something else to say (No, please, no!). I have had enough of people giving Cyclops, "Cyke," "Slim," or Scott a hard time. I mean, these people (or some) expect realism, but rank down on Scott by calling him a "whiner" or "wimp." He may be a mutant, but he has human concerns and doubts and feelings. This, to me, has finally been conveyed through Mrs. Simonson's writing.

'Till next time, Silent Partner signing off!

Silent Partner G.R.  
Rt. 1, Box 257-A-1  
Elk Creek, VA 24326

NEXT ISSUE: A NEW BEGINNING!